Fishing Industry

623. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER:

SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item that appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' of 4th July, 1986 under the caption 'Talks on for tie ups in sea fishing', if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what is the extent of boost fishery industry in India is likely to get as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes Sir. The Main points indicated in the news item are: encouragement be given to joint venture in deep sea fishing, acquisition of deep sea fishing vessels by Indian Fishing Companies to introduce about 350—500 deep sea fishing vessels, chartering of foreign fishing vessels and import of second hand/new fishing vessels under 100 per cent export scheme with foreign loan.

(b) The Government are making every effort to increase fish production through various schemes and to build up a sizeable fleet of deep sea fishing vessels in order to optimally utilise the available fishery resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Country and to establish a modern fishery industry.

Scarcity of drinking water

624. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is scarcity of drinking water in various parts of the country;

(b) whether Government have recently made any study of this problem;

(c) if so, what are the details of the villages facing acute drinking water scarcity, State-wise; and

(d) what are the reasons identified for the water scarcity in different parts and what remedial steps are being taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) to (d) Surveys have been conducted and are being conducted to identify villages in the country facing the problem of safe drinking water. As per criteria adopted by the Central Government problem villages are those where (a) safe source of drinking water is located at the distance of more than 1.6 Kms. and in the case of hilly areas at an elevation difference of 100 meters or where it is available at a depth of more than 15 meters (b) where the available drinking water is characterised by the presence of to-icity, chemical contamination, brackishness, etc. and (c) where Pathogenic organisms are present in drinking water. A Statement (*See below*) showing state-wise details of villages having the problem of drinking water supply at the end of the 6th Five Year Plan are attached. The provision of safe drinking water to problem villages forms Point No. 8 of the 20 Point Programme and the subject is a part of the Minimum Needs Programme which is being implemented by the State Governments. Under the Minimum Needs Programme, the State Governments formulate, make financial provision for and implement drinking water supply schemes an identified villages. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing them financial assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply programme. In the Seventh Plan the MNP provision in the State sector in this respect is Rs. 2253.25 crores and Rs. 1201.22 crores under the Central sector ARWSP.